

SPECIFICATION

Method to Block Unauthorized Network Traffic in a Cable Data Network

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Field of the Invention

- [01] The present invention relates to methods of enhancing cable Internet subscriber satisfaction by enforcing subscriber filtering requests at the cable modem termination system in a consumption based billing environment.

Background of the Invention

- [02] The Internet, also termed the "information superhighway", has revolutionized how data and information can be accessed. Presently, "online" information sources mirror most of the information available from traditional sources such as newspapers, reference books, databases and other public information sources. Users are also able to subscribe to private information sources, order goods and services and download information content and receive radio and television transmissions. Communications between users is also available and includes "chat" rooms, semi-private virtual area networks, telephone service (termed voice over Internet protocol or VoIP) and online competitive video gaming.

- [03] As uses of the Internet increase, users seek faster connection speeds and greater bandwidth. Cable data networks are becoming a preferred solution in providing high data transfer rates to users at attractive pricing. At increased bandwidth, user enjoyment is enhanced with shorter wait and download times.

- [04] Internet use typically involves accessing remote Internet servers for purposes of downloading information or digital files as well as uploading files and messages. Access is accomplished by connecting a subscriber terminal or terminal means to a cable data network that is in turn connected to the Internet. Terminal means include traditional terminals, personal computers (PC) and game console devices equipped